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# Message Text

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43
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 AF-06 OPIC-03 EURE-00 SAM-01 IO-10 /073 W
---------- 028759
O R 091741Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4194
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5289

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PINT, PO
SUBJECT: PS VIEWS ON SIXTH GOVERNMENT

REFS: DAO IR 6 879 04527 75 DTG 091310Z SEP 75
PONTA DELGADA 0339 DTG 082225Z SEP 75

SUMMARY: RELIABLE PS SOURCE CONFIRMS THAT SIXTH PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT LIKELY TO BE ANNOUNCED SEPT. 10. PS WILL HOLD ONE OF TWO VICE PRIME MINISTER POSITIONS PLUS FIVE OR SIX OF APPROXIMATELY 15 MINISTERIAL POSITIONS. PPD WILL GET TWO CABINET POSITIONS; PCP ONE OR POSSIBLY TWO. PROGRAM OF GOVERNMENT WILL BE BASED UPON PS POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PLANS. PS STRATEGY IS BASED UPON GAINING EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF GOVERNMENT; COAXING MILITARY BACK TO BARRACKS; AND DISARMING VARIOUS ARMED GROUPS. PS IS ELATED OVER RECENT EVENTS AND CONFIDENT OF ITS OWN
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ABILITY TO DO WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE. END SUMMARY.

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1. RUI MATEUS OF INTERNATIONAL DIVISION OF SOCIALIST PARTY
(PS) GAVE EMBOFF FOLLOWING RUNDOWN OF STATE OF PLAY ON FORMATION
OF SIXTH PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT.
-- COMPOSITION OF GOVERNMENT COULD BE ANNOUNCED AS EARLY AS TOMORROW
(SEPT 10). FIVE OR SIX OF APPROXIMATELY 15 MINISTERIAL POSITIONS,
WILL BE PS. PPD WILL GET TWO (SOCIAL SECURITY AND ONE OTHER);
PCP WILL GET ONE (TRANSPORTATION) OR PERHAPS TWO. MILITARY OR
"INDEPENDENTS" WILL GET REST. PS WOULD ALSO HOLD MAJOR PORTION
OF SUB-MINISTERIAL POSITIONS.
-- SOCIALIST (SALGADO ZENHA) WILL BE NAMED TO BE ONE OF TWO VICE
PRIME MINISTER POSITIONS; OTHER WILL BE MILITARY MAN.
-- PS MINISTERIAL POSITIONS WILL INCLUDE MASS COMMUNICATIONS;
UNDUSTRY; JUSTICE; FOREIGN AFFAIRS WILL GO TO A SOCIALIST OR
MELO ANTUNES.
-- MINISTER OF ECONOMY WILL BE ONE OF EX-MES MEMBERS WITH WHOM
PS MAINTAINS GOOD WORKING RELATIONS.
-- MINISTER OF EDUCATION WILL BE "INDEPENDENT" WHO ENJOYS CON-
FIDENCE OF BOTH CHURCH AND PS.

2. SOARES WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN GOVERNMENT. SOARES WILL
HOLD HIMSELF OUT FOR LEADERSHIP OF ELECTED GOVERNMENT.
-- BASIS OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAM WILL BE PREVIOUSLY-PRESENTED
PS POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PLANS. PS ON SEPT 7 REJECTED
AZEVEDO TEN-POINT PROGRAM BASED LARGELY UPON PLANS OF FIFTH
PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT WITH THIN OVERLAY FROM PS POLITICAL
AND ECONOMIC PLANS.

3. MATEUS CONFIRMED THAT PS HAD DECLINED OFFER FROM PRIME
MINISTER DESIGNATE AZEVEDO TO PUT TOGETHER SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT.
PS DID NOT AT THIS TIME WISH TO TAKE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY FOR
GOVERNMENT, ALLOWING OTHERS TO TAKE POT SHOTS FROM
SIDELINES. MILITARY MUST BE COMMITTED AND PPD AND PCP MUST SHARE
RESPONSIBILITY TO RESOLVE MANY PRESSING PROBLEMS FACING THE
NATION.

4. RELATIONS WITH MELO ANTUNES GROUP: RELATIONS WERE
EXCELLENT. MELO ANTUNES HAD WRITTEN MILITARY CHAPTER IN ORIGINAL
PS PLATFORM SHORTLY AFTER APRIL 1974 REVOLUTION. HOWEVER, MATEUS ADDE
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NOTE OF CAUTION THAT MELO ANTUNES WAS "MOST AMBITIOUS" OF GROUP OF NI
NE.

5. RELATIONS WITH PPD: PPD HAD NOT LIVED UP TO ITS POTENTIAL.
IT TOOK EQUIVOCAL POSITIONS ON IMPORTANT ISSUES. IT'S LEADER-
SHIP WAS DIVIDED. GUERREIRO WAS A "WILD MAN" WHO WAS FAR REMOVED
FROM THE RANK AND FILE OF THE PARTY. MOREOVER, HE WAS SUBJECT
TO PCP BLACKMAIL BECAUSE OF HIS ASSOCIATION WITH THE FRENCH SECURITY

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APPARATUS DURING THIS EXILE IN PARIS.

6. PS STRATEGY: PS IS EMBARKED UPON THREE-PRONGED STRATEGY WHICH INCLUDES:
-- GAINING EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF GOVERNMENT;
-- CONVINCING MILITARY THAT THEY SHOULD GO BACK TO THE BARRACKS;
-- DISARMING THE VARIOUS ARMED GROUPS, PARTICULARLY THE PCP PARAMILITARY ORGANIZATIONS. MATEUS SAID THE PCP HAD 6,000 ARMED MEN AT THEIR CALL IN THE LISBON AREA. ALTHOUGH THE CURRENT LOYALTY OF THESE MEN WAS OPEN TO QUESTION, THEY REMAINED A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IF ONLY BECAUSE THE ARMED FORCES WAS "SCARED TO DEATH OF THEM." PS TACTIC FOR DEALING WITH THIS SITUATION, HE SAID, WAS TO TURN PCP STRATEGY AGAINST THEM, I.E., PROMOTE "POCKETS OF DISCONTENT" WITH PCP IN ANTICIPATION THAT PCP DISSIDENTS WOULD REVEAL WHERE ARMS WERE. MILITARY WOULD THEN HAVE TO BE RELIED UPON TO PICK UP WEAPONS.
7. REPUBLICA STATUS: MATEUS SAID AZEVEDO HAD OFFERED TO RETURN REPUBLICA TO SOCIALISTS. PS HAD REFUSED TO ACCEPT PAPER UNDER CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES IF IT MEANT ALSO ASSUMING HEAVY DEBTS WHICH WORKER-CONTROLLED ADMINISTRATION HAD RUN UP. MATEUS SAID CIRCULATION HAD DECLINED FROM 55,000 DAILY TO 4,000. PS, HE SIAD, WOULD HANDLE THIS ISSUE ONCE IT WAS BACK IN THE GOVERNMENT. (CUNHA REGO TOLD POL. COUNSELOR THAT PS CONTINUED TO DEMAND A SATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT OF REPUBLICA CASE AS PART OF PACKAGE FOR RETURNING TO GOVERNMENT.)

8. COMMENT: MATEUS' ACCOUNT IS ESSENTIALLY SAME AS THAT PROVIDED BY SEVERAL OTHER PS SOURCES (SEE REFTELS), WITH MINOR DIFFERENCES. FOR EXAMPLE, VICTOR CUNHA REGO, LONG-TIME SOARES CONFIDENT, TOLD POLITICAL COUNSELOR SEPT. 9 THAT NEW GOVERNMENT WILL PROBABLY BE ANNOUNCED BY FRIDAY, SEPT. 12. CUNHA REGO SAID SALGADO ZENHA LIKELY TO BE PS FOREIGN MINISTER. ALSO SAID PS INSISTING THAT NINE OCCUPY SOME OF PORTFOLIOS RESERVED FOR MILITARY.
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CUNHA REGO CONFIRMED THAT SOARES WILL NOT HOLD FORMAL POST IN GOVERNMENT, GIVING AS REASON SOARES' LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN AZEVEDO'S ABILITY TO RESOLVE PRESSING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. THE SOCIALISTS ARE OBVIOUSLY ELATED BY RECENT EVENTS AND DETERMINED TO MAKE THE MOST OF THEM.
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